

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently Amended) A message brokering system for providing a publish/subscribe service for publisher and subscriber application programs, comprising:

~~means for receiving a receiver configured to~~ published messages from one or more publisher application programs;

~~means for forwarding a transmitter configured to forward~~ received messages to connected message brokering systems;

~~means a selection module~~, responsive to a communication characteristic of an inter-broker communication link ~~effective to communicate messages~~ between the message brokering system and one of said connected message brokering systems, ~~configured to select for selecting~~ a message filtering policy which is appropriate for the communication characteristic; and

~~means for controlling a filter module configured to control~~ the forwarding of messages via the inter-broker communication link using the selected message filtering policy, ~~wherein the means for selecting a message filter policy is separate from the publisher and subscriber application programs.~~

2. (Original) A message brokering system according to claim 1, wherein the communication characteristic used to select a message filtering policy is a communication protocol provided by the communication link.

3. (Currently Amended) A message brokering system according to claim 1, further comprising a link module configured to

establish ~~wherein establishing~~ ~~on~~ the inter-broker communication link; includes:  
define ~~defining~~ the communication characteristic for the communication link;  
compare ~~comparing~~ the communication characteristic with a list of administrator-defined  
associations between communication characteristics and message filtering policies, to select a  
message filtering policy for the communication link; and  
store ~~storing~~ an identification of the selected message filtering policy in association with  
the communication link.

4. (Original) A message brokering system according to claim 1, wherein the communication characteristic used to select a message filtering policy includes a dynamic communication characteristic.
5. (Original) A message brokering system according to claim 4, wherein the communication characteristic used to select a message filtering policy includes a measure of subscription activity.
6. (Original) A message brokering system according to claim 4, wherein the communication characteristic used to select a message filtering policy includes a measure of redundant message transmissions.
7. (Currently Amended) A message brokering system according to claim 1, wherein

~~the filter module means for controlling includes means for implementing is configured to implement a broadcast messaging policy and means for implementing implement a proxy-subscription-based message filtering policy,~~

~~a respective one of the broadcast messaging policy and the proxy-subscription-based message filter policy said means for implementing being activated in response to said selection of a message filtering policy.~~

8. (Currently Amended) A message brokering system according to claim 7, wherein ~~the filter module said means for implementing a proxy subscription-based messaging policy comprises: means for receiving is configured to~~

~~receive subscription information for connected message brokering systems; and for storing~~

~~store said subscription information for comparison with received published messages; and~~

~~means for forwarding forward, to connected message brokering systems, subscription information for subscriber application programs connected to the message brokering system.~~

9. (Original) A message brokering system according to claim 7, wherein

the broadcast messaging policy is implemented for links which provide a non-transactional messaging protocol and

the proxy-subscription-based message filtering policy is implemented for links which provide a transactional messaging protocol.

10. (Original) A message brokering system according to claim 1, wherein the selection of a message filtering policy is specific to a selected message topic or topic group.

11. (Currently Amended) A data processing system comprising:  
~~at least~~ a first and a second message broker, connected via one or more inter-broker communication links and configured to provide a publish/subscribe service for publisher and subscriber application programs;

~~means a selection module~~, responsive to a communication characteristic of a communication link effective to communicate messages between the first and second message brokers, configured to select for selecting a message filtering policy which is appropriate for the communication characteristic; and

~~means for controlling a filter module configured to control~~ the transmission of the messages via the ~~inter broker~~ communication link using the selected message filtering policy;  
wherein

~~the means for selecting a message filter policy is separate from the publisher and subscriber application programs.~~

12. (Currently Amended) A data processing system according to claim 11, wherein ~~said means for selecting a message filtering policy is adapted~~ the selection module is configured to select one of a plurality of different policies in response to characteristics of a received message.

13. (Currently Amended) A data processing system according to claim 12, wherein ~~the means for selecting a message filtering policy is adapted~~ the selection module is configured to select one of a plurality of different policies in response to a topic identifier within a received message.

14. (Currently Amended) A computer program product having a machine-reachable recording medium having recorded thereon a program code for providing a publish/subscribe brokering service for publisher and subscriber application programs, ~~comprising program code recorded on a machine-readable recording medium, the program code comprising the program code comprising a routine set of instructions which when executed by a message brokering system causes the message brokering system to perform the steps of:~~

~~means for~~ receiving published messages from one or more publisher application programs;

~~means for~~ forwarding received messages to connected message brokering systems;

~~means~~, responsive to a communication characteristic of an inter-broker communication link effective to communicate messages between the message brokering system and one of said connected message brokering systems, ~~for~~ selecting a message filtering policy which is appropriate for the communication characteristic; and

~~means for~~ controlling the forwarding of messages via the inter-broker communication link using the selected message filtering policy, ~~wherein~~

~~the means for selecting a message filter policy is separate from the publisher and subscriber application programs.~~

Claim 15 (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) A method of configuring a message brokering system for efficient inter-broker communications in a multi-broker publish/subscribe environment in which publishers publish messages via message brokers and subscribers register with message brokers to receive published messages, the method comprising:

responsive to a communication characteristic for a communication link effective to communicate messages between the message brokering system and another message brokering system, selecting a message filtering policy according to the determined communication characteristic; and

controlling the transmission of messages via the communication link using the selected message filtering policy.